THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) The Million Wells Scheme (MWS) is being implemented to provide dug wells for irrigation purposes, free for cost, to individual poor small and marginal farmers belonging to SCs/STs and freed bonded labourers. Where wells are not feasible due to geological factors, other minor irrigation works including development of lands belonging to small and marginal farmers is undertaken. Borewells and tubewells, on both individual and group basis have been permitted under the scheme w.e.f. 1.10.96. The scheme is funded by the Centre and State in the ratio of 80:20.

(c) The number of wells constructed in Gujarat under MWS is 41497 (upto Sept. 96) since inception of the scheme i.e. 1988-89. District-wise details are not monitored at the Central level.

(d) Physical targets for Construction of wells are not fixed as there are other activities permitted under the Scheme.

Theft of electricity

117. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that theft of electricity is cognizable offence under the Electricity Act, 1910 and it extends to the whole of India;

(b) if so, how many cases of electricity theft were booked under the Act in the country, particularly in Maharashtra and Delhi during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to ensure that provisions of the law are implemented effectively to curb electricity thefts in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The responsibility for booking cases for theft of elelctricity vests with the concerned State Governments. Information regarding number of cases booked during the last three years in Maharashtra and Delhi is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Power distribution falls within the purview of State governments and the activities pertaining to reduction of transmission and distribution losses and prosecution of cases for theft of electricity are to be taken by power utilities operating under the jurisdiction of Government of Maharashtra/Delhi. To effectively implement the provisions of the law to curb electricity theft guidelines have been issued by Central Electricity Authority to State Electricity Boards/Electricity Departments which, inter-alia, include installation of tamper proof meters, setting up of vigilance squads and prosecuting persons indulging in theft of electricity.

Amount due for payment to the World Bank by NTPC

118. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI:
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total loan outstanding on NTPC from World Bank as on date;

(b) the stpes taken by NTPC during the last three years to repay the same;

(c) whether the World Bank has informed NTPC to stop any further loan; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) The total outstanding loan taken directly by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) from World Bank as on 30.9.1996 in US $ 56.7 million (189.12 crores).

(b) No repayment was due by NTPC during the last three years.

(c)The World Bank have indicated to resort to suspension of loans and deferment of new loans to NTPC in case urgent remedial action